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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York.

### PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by His Eminence Archbishop Oshagan Cholyan from the Eastern Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America in New York City.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Almighty God, eternal guide of humankind, we seek the grace of Your wisdom in our lives and in the lives of our leaders. We thank You in the name of the Armenian people for Your divine mercy in providing them a safe refuge in this blessed country, the United States of America, where they were delivered from the depths of despair of genocide and welcomed with new life. We beseech You to spare all of Your children from tyranny and persecution.

Reveal Your infinite Spirit to the Members of this Senate, that they may be inspired toward a greatness of purpose and ennobled in their request for good governance. We offer to You our sacrifices upon the altar of freedom in an act of redemption for all of humankind with hope of harmony, compassion, and tolerance. We stand before You today and ask this in Your Name and for Your glory. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, April 25, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,  
*President pro tempore.*

Mrs. GILLIBRAND thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, the Senate is now considering the motion to proceed to S. 1925, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act.

The Republicans will control the first half hour, and the majority will control the second half hour this morning. The Republicans will also control the time from 11:30 to 12:30 today. The majority will control the time from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

At 2 p.m. the Senate will resume consideration of the postal reform bill. There will be several rollcall votes—six to eight votes—at that time in order to complete action on the bill.

### POSTAL REFORM

I am very gratified about the work that has been done over the last many months, which will culminate today in

the passing of this postal bill. It has been extremely difficult. Lots of people have worked on this bill, and it has been a bipartisan effort. It is going to send a message to the House that we can do big things.

It is an important piece of legislation—one of the biggest and most complicated we have dealt with in a long time. As I said, I am gratified, and I congratulate and applaud Senators LIEBERMAN, COLLINS, and others on our side—especially Senator TOM CARPER, who worked hard with the chairman and ranking member and many others who were stalwarts. We saw that yesterday when there was an effort to bring the bill down. That was the first vote we took. Senators stood at their desks in the Chamber on a bipartisan basis and indicated how important this legislation is. It was a very important day for the American people.

### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

We will be on this legislation I announced dealing with violence against women. Each year about 5 million Americans are victims of violence by their spouses or partners. Every single day 3 women are killed at the hands of their abusers, and every day 9 or 10 are beaten very badly. They are hospitalized, and some have permanent injuries from their abusers. We authorize and ensure in this law that the police have the tools to more effectively stop this and prosecute those people who are the abusers.

As I said yesterday, I held hearings many years ago on this subject, and the one issue that was pronounced so clearly is that in many instances the only thing that helps these abusers is to send them to jail. It works better than counseling, better than threats, and people should realize we need law enforcement to have better ways of approaching these calls they get all the time.

I also mentioned yesterday that in Las Vegas one of our prized police officers, a sergeant on the police force for

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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